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Conrad Youngerman

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NOTABLE DEATHS.

CONRAD YOUNGERMAN was born in Hesse-Cassel, Germany, December 15, 1833; he died in Des Moines, Iowa, September 10, 1901. The name of his family in the old country was spelled Jungermann, but changed in America to the present form to preserve the correct pronunciation. When his school days were over he was apprenticed to learn the trade of a stone-cutter, at which he served a term of years, becoming a practical and expert workman. He came to America in 1854, worked awhile in the vicinity of New York, and then went on to Illyria, Ohio, where he still followed his trade. On the 11th of September, 1856, he was married to Miss Minne Stark, who survives her husband. She was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, in 1835, and immigrated to this country with her parents. Immediately after their marriage the young couple came to Iowa and settled in Des Moines, where he established himself in business as a stone-cutter, taking his first building contracts in 1857. Four years later he began to manufacture brick, increasing his facilities until he was able to put upon the market from 2,000,000 to 6,000,000 per annum. Meantime his work as contractor and builder constantly increased. He erected scores if not hundreds of buildings, and among them some of the largest and most important structures in Des Moines. Like the dutiful and affectionate son he always was, he visited the fatherland in 1872 for the purpose of bringing back his aged mother, who had been left a widow in his boyhood, and who thenceforth lived with him to the end of her days. One remarkable fact in relation to Mr. Youngerman was this, that he never forgot a friend who had stood by him in his earlier years. When he came to Des Moines he soon met Gen. M. M. Crocker, then a young lawyer in the first years of his practice. They became well acquainted, and Crocker advised and befriended him at a time when he needed friends. This he never forgot, and he strove in many ways to keep green the memory of that ideal Iowa soldier. One of his largest and most durable structures in Des Moines (corner of Fifth and Locust streets) bears the name of "Crocker Building." It is seldom, indeed, that a man in the rush and worry of an active business life has thus paid tribute to the memory of a friend who had been dead nearly forty years. But it attests the abiding steadfastness of Mr. Youngerman's friendships. He was to the end of his days an important factor in the business interests and development of the capital city. "In all his business dealings with hundreds of tenants, business firms and individuals, he was known as a man whose word was as good as gold, as a man who would not misrepresent anything, a man who was never selfish and never unkind." "He started in an unknown land without a penny to his name, and by his own industry and thrift worked his way to the top." The Des Moines daily papers paid the highest tributes of respect to the memory of this exemplary man and useful citizen.

ROBERT S. FINKBINE was born at Oxford, Ohio, July 9, 1828; he died at Des Moines, Iowa, July 8, 1901. He was married at Oxford, Ohio, in 1852, to Miss Rebecca Finch, who survives him. Mr. Finkbine came to Iowa in 1850 and settled in Iowa City, where he resided until 1880, when he removed to Des Moines. He had, however, been a member of the board of capitol commissioners from 1873. The appreciative tribute paid to Mr. Finkbine's memory upon the occasion of his funeral, by Hon. Peter A. Dey, of Iowa City, obviates the necessity of any extended notice in this place. Mr. Dey's remarks appear elsewhere in this number of THE ANNALS, and very clearly set forth the services of his deceased associate upon the capitol commission. In 1890 Mr. Finkbine was appointed a member of the board of public works by the mayor of Des Moines and served four years.

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